

Remarks

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated as mailed February 3, 2005 and the documents cited therewith and the present amendment has been prepared in response thereto.

Formal drawings are submitted herewith . The Examiner's approval of these drawings is requested.

Currently claims 1 through 20 are pending. Claims 1 through 6 and claims 14 through 20 are allowed. Independent claim 7 has been amended, claims 8 through 13 depend from claim 7.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 as being anticipated by Azkona and Hastings et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Hastings and Azkona are similar to one another in that they both disclose adjustable pliers where a slot is formed in one of the jaw members where the slot has teeth (Azkona) or cavities (Hastings) formed on one inner surface of the slot while the opposite surface of the slot is smooth. A pin extends into the slot to pivotably connect the jaw members to one another. The invention set forth in claim 7 includes a bracket connected to said bottom jaw, said bracket defining a space between the bracket and said bottom jaw that receives said top jaw and said bracket further defines a receptacle for receiving said pin. In the art relied on by the Examiner, any force exerted on the jaws tending to move the jaws apart is resisted by the shear strength of the pin. In the claimed invention, this force is transmitted to the bottom jaw by the bracket to minimize the stress on the pin at the pivot point. Thus the claimed arrangement provides an improved adjustable pliers that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art relied on by the Examiner. It is submitted that claim 7 defines over the prior art and is allowable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment a telephone interview is requested.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

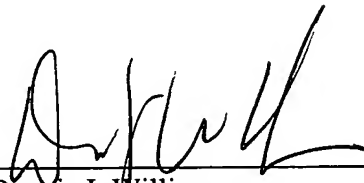
Respectfully submitted,

David P. Engvall

(Applicant)

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By:



Dennis J. Williamson
Registration No. 32,338

Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
P.O. Box 13706
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199